

library

Rural District of Daventry

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year 1960



JOAN M. ST. V. DAWKINS,
Medical Officer of Health.

TO : The Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council
of Daventry

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I HAVE the honour to present my fifth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, incorporating that of the Public Health Inspector.

Once a year the Medical Officer of Health presents an assessment of the health of the community. This cannot be estimated alone from statistical information. The deaths consist mainly of a degenerative and neoplastic character and are largely from older age groups, indicating that people are living longer. Whether the added years are happier, more productive and free from intercurrent illness can only be surmised.

There is little possibility now of the death of the breadwinner from pneumonia or tuberculosis, less possibility of the mother losing her infant babe, and practically none of the mother dying in childbirth. Children and youths have never been healthier. There remains however the spectre of the highroad taking its indiscriminate toll and leaving many maimed. Many die, particularly the very young and aged, from accidents in the home. There is an increasing incidence of coronary artery disease, particularly among the more productive and responsible of the male population, and the figures for cancer of the lung continue to rise.

The causes of some crippling diseases remain obscure, among which are the rheumatic diseases, diabetes, of which many suffer needlessly because of late diagnosis, neurosis, mental illness, and the cancers. Thus, though some diseases may not be avoided, increasingly in these days of comparative affluence, an individual's health may depend on his own rectitude and good sense. In this category is the acceptance of preventive procedures for his children, the prevention of accidents in the home and on the road. The taking of regular exercise and the avoidance of excesses of diet, alcohol, and tobacco. Finally, a tolerance and benign attitude to life and labour may assist in the prevention of much mental ill health, which is still far too prevalent.

The vital statistics for the year 1960 show that there were 188 deaths, three more than last year. This gives a standardised rate of 11.6 compared with the national figure of 11.5. Male deaths again exceeded female deaths by 18. Details and comments on the causes of death are on pages 8 and 9.

The total number of births was 251, showing an increase of three on last year's figure of 248, of which 13 were illegitimate, the same number as last year. There were five infant deaths compared with three last year, of which three were under one week of age.

There was a decline in infectious disease notifications, falling from 228 to 82, due to the biennial incidence of measles. Notifications fell from 211 to 53 cases. There was once again no poliomyelitis, and gratifying to record no case of dysentery. A satisfactory year.

The respiratory infections, apart from tuberculosis, once the great killer and now largely controlled, still give considerable cause for disquiet and remain the commonest group of illnesses in the community. They are a cause of much ill-health, and in some, finally, of death. Influenza and bronchitis are the two most frequent causes of incapacity for work.

This year eight people died from pneumonia and three from bronchitis, while from tuberculosis there was only one death. There was a decline from eight to one of death from influenza.

The County Council introduced the triple vaccination, including diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus. There has been a large increase in the number of children who have been immunised to diphtheria, polio-myelitis, and also an increase in the number of booster immunisations. This is gratifying. However, there should be a hundred per cent. acceptance of immunisation, and once more its necessity is stressed.

The need for reinforcing later doses must also not be forgotten. There have been, in the country this year, small outbreaks of diphtheria. Almost all cases were in those who have never been immunised or who had failed to have the booster doses.

There was, however, a fall in smallpox vaccinations. Last year 140 infants under two years received this vaccination. This year the number declined to 88. The possibility of introducing smallpox infection by air transport is always present, and the greater the number of susceptibles in the community so the risk of infection increases. Parents are earnestly reminded to continue to have their infants vaccinated.

Slum clearance continued in a satisfactory manner, and after five and a half years the Council had dealt with 494 houses. The original five-year programme, formulated in 1955, set out to deal with 294 houses, while a second programme, devised this year, planned to deal with a further 228 houses. By the end of the first year this had already been practically achieved, leaving only a remaining 28 houses on the list. It should be stressed that many of the slum houses required no houses to be built in their place, since they were dealt with immediately on the death or vacation for other reason of the tenant. During this year action was taken in 104 houses under the various sections of the Act. There is some difficulty in certain parishes in finding suitable building areas for new houses to replace the old slum properties.

The sewerage schemes for Lilbourne and Yelvertoft continued during the year, and would be completed during the coming year. We hope this pleasing progress will be shortly extended to other parishes of the District.

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation to all members of the Staff, in particular those of the Public Health Department, for their assistance in the compilation of this report, also to chairmen and members of the various committees for their help and encouragement. Thanks are also due to the County Medical Officer of Health for information on immunisation and vaccination.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,
JOAN M. ST. V. DAWKINS,
Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices.
Church Walk,
DAVENTRY.
Telephones : Daventry 7 and 310.

Daventry Rural District Council

Members of the Housing, Estates Management and Public Health Committees :

Chairman of Housing Committee : Mr. Councillor R. B. Harris.

Chairman of Estates Management Committee : Rev. E. J. A. Dunn.

Chairman of Public Health Committee : Mr. Councillor S. Allen.

Messrs. Councillors J. O. Adams, J.P.; J. W. Anscomb, J.P., C.A. (Chairman of the Council); Mrs. G. L. Atterbury; F. W. Boddington; C. E. Browne, M.B.E.; H. E. Burdett; A. R. Busby; E. R. Buswell; C. E. Gibbes; F. Harris; W. S. Harrison; W. A. Hart; H. A. Hupfield; Mrs. M. A. Lemon; Mrs. R. E. Lucas; H. A. Malin; Major J. K. Maxwell (Vice-Chairman of the Council); Rev. D. H. S. Mould; W. J. Preece, C.C.; Rev. M. T. Porteus; Rev. S. F. W. Powell; F. W. Robinson; T. W. Russell; Mrs. C. M. S. Thornton, C.C.; Rev. H. Voller; R. L. Wakeford; and W. J. Webb.

Public Health Officers of the Council:

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. J. M. St. V. Dawkins, M.B.B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H.

also holds appointment of

Medical Officer of Health Daventry Borough and Brixworth
Rural District:

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health and County School
Medical Officer.

Public Health Inspector: J. M. Harkness, R.S.I.J.B., M.P.H.I.A.

Public Health Inspector's Assistant : B. C. Lines.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1960

Area (in acres)	79,243
Population (based on Registrar-General's figures)	16,190
Number of separate dwellings occupied	5,483
Rateable Value	£152,294
Product of a Penny Rate	£590 5s. 10d.

Vital Statistics

Live Births 251: Live Birth rate per 1,000 population	15.5
Still Births 2: Still Birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	7.9
Total live and still births 253. Infant deaths 5	
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	19.9
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births, legitimate	21.0
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births, illegitimate	nil
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births (first 4 weeks)	19.9
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	5.17
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	1
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	.39

Tables Showing Births and Deaths

Live Births (rate per 1,000 total population):—

	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Rate for England & Wales
Legitimate	127	111	238		
Illegitimate	8	5	13		
	135	116	251	15.5	17.1

Still Births (rate per 1,000 live and still births):—

	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Rate for England & Wales
Legitimate	2	—	2		
Illegitimate	—	—	—		
	2	—	2	7.9	19.7

Deaths (rate per 1,000 total population)

	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Rate for England & Wales
All Causes	103	85	188	11.6	11.5

Maternal Mortality

1		Rate for England & Wales
		.39 .39

Deaths from Infectious Diseases

nil

Infant Mortality (rate per 1,000 live births)—

	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Rate for England & Wales
Legitimate	4	1	5		
Illegitimate	—	—	—		
	4	1	5	19.9	21.7

Neo-Natal Mortality: Deaths under 4 weeks (rate per 1,000 live births)

	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Rate for England & Wales
	4	1	5	19.9	15.6

Deaths under 1 week of age:—

	Male	Female	Total	Rate	Rate for England & Wales
Legitimate	3	1	4		
Illegitimate	—	—	—		
	3	1	4		

**Statistics showing Population and Numbers of Occupied Houses
in each Parish of the District**

Parish	Population		Number of Occupied Houses		
	1931	1951	Private Houses	Council Houses	Total
census	census				
Ashby St. Ledgers	210	169	50	—	50
Badby	440	478	104	62	166
Barby	471	536	90	40	130
Braunston	1015	1161	200	176	376
Brockhall	38	34	8	—	8
Byfield	868	796	174	130	304
Canons Ashby	49	42	10	—	10
Catesby	91	85	28	—	28
Charwelton	165	166	43	8	51
Clay Coton	71	51	13	4	17
Crick	681	728	197	57	254
Dodford	238	216	49	3	52
Elkington	69	62	18	—	18
Everdon	406	420	112	20	132
Farthingstone	177	174	50	8	58
Fawsley	29	21	13	—	13
Flore	786	896	233	104	337
Hellidon	148	160	51	4	55
Kilsby	501	558	133	71	204
Lilbourne	209	241	46	28	74
Long Buckby	2325	2316	623	205	828
Newnham	356	383	99	32	131
Norton	315	265	93	—	93
Preston Capes	156	167	52	6	58
Stanford	53	43	12	—	12
Staverton	319	361	84	30	114
Stowe-IX-Churches	219	180	62	4	66
Watford	324	281	76	8	84
Weedon Bec	1750	1734	303	189	492
Welton	358	381	87	41	128
West Haddon	714	704	209	56	265
Whilton	216	168	57	10	67
Winwick	153	89	34	—	34
Woodford Halse	1740	1764	419	202	621
Yelvertoft	349	462	113	40	153
—	—	—	—	—	—
16009	16293	3945	1538	5483	—
—	—	—	—	—	—

SECTION A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The District is largely rural, and though the principal occupation in the District is agriculture, the majority of the working population are, however, employed in industry either in Daventry, Rugby, or Northampton. Woodford Halse contains a railway depot of considerable size, and at Weedon there is an Ordnance Depot. A few small industries are also scattered throughout the District. The London—Birmingham Motorway extends through the District from Flore to the Warwickshire border. A significant factor is the very low accident rate for this motorway.

Area.—The area of the District was 79,423 acres, or 124.2 square miles, which gives an average of one person to 4.7 acres, or 132 persons to the square mile.

Population.—The Registrar-General's estimated mid-year population for the District was 16,190, showing a decrease of 290 compared with the previous year. A census of the population for the whole country was fixed for 1961; the figures may be of some interest in this District when they become available. The natural increase in population, i.e., excess of births over deaths was 63.

Occupied Dwellings.—There was a decrease in the number of occupied dwellings, after deducting those dealt with under the Housing Acts.

Deaths.—The total number of deaths recorded was 188, showing a slight increase of 3 on the number for 1959. The standardised death rate for 1960 was 10.778, compared with 11.5 for England and Wales. The standardised death rate is calculated from the Registrar-General's comparability factor, which makes allowance for age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, and is adjusted specifically to take account of the presence of any residential institution in the area.

Births.—The number was 251, an increase of 3 compared with the figure for 1959, and giving a standardised rate of 16.74 (calculated on the Registrar-General's comparability factor), compared with 17.1 for England and Wales, per 1,000 of the total population.

Still-Births.—The figure for 1960 showed a decrease compared with that for 1959, it being 2 as compared with 3 the previous year, and gave a rate of 7.9 per 1,000 live and still births.

Illegitimate Births.—The number recorded was 13, being the same as for the previous year.

Maternal Mortality.—One death was recorded as being associated with child birth.

Infant Mortality.—The number of children under the age of 1 year who died was 5, as compared with 3 the previous year. The causes were prematurity and congenital malformations.

Neo-Natal Mortality.—Five deaths occurred during the first 4 weeks of life, further, 4 of these deaths occurred during the first week of life.

The List of the causes of death in the District during the year, classified under thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Disease, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948, as used for England and Wales, are given in the following table:—

Causes	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	—	1
Tuberculosis, Other	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective or Paralytic Diseases	—	—	—
Cancer, Stomach	4	3	7
Cancer, Lung Bronchus	8	1	9
Cancer, Breast	—	1	1
Cancer, Uterus	—	1	1
Cancer, Other Malignant and Lymphatic	9	5	14
Leukemia, aleukemia	2	2	4
Diabetes	1	2	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	11	10	21
Coronary Disease (angina)	21	12	33
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	3	5
Heart Disease (other)	15	20	35
Other Circulatory Disease	5	2	7
Influenza	1	—	1
Pneumonia	1	7	8
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Other Disease of Respiratory System	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	—	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—	1	1
Congenital Malformations	—	1	1
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	8	10	18
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2
All Other Accidents	4	1	5
Suicide	2	1	3
	—	—	—
	103	85	188
	—	—	—

The vital statistics for the year show that there were 188 deaths, 3 more than last year. This gives a standardised rate of 11.6 compared with the national figure of 11.5. Male deaths again exceeded female deaths by 18. The great preponderance of deaths from diseases of the heart and circulation is once more evident, making a total of 101, of which 33 died from coronary disease alone, while 47 died from other heart disease, and a further 26 from vascular lesions of the nervous system.

Disease of the heart and circulation constitute therefore just over one half of the total deaths. Cancer remains again the second cause of death, taking this year 34 persons, an increase of 4 on last year. Disease of the heart and circulation together with cancer cause in the District over 70 per cent. of the total deaths.

The trend of principal causes of death continues therefore towards the mainly degenerative and neoplastic conditions and away from infectious disease, now largely controlled by the wide number of antibiotic and other drugs. It must be remembered, however, that arterial disease may attack early, often in males in the prime of life, as evidenced by the mounting toll of deaths from coronary disease, and now each year deaths from cancer of the lung increase.

There is also an increase in male deaths between the ages of 15 and 24 almost entirely the result of motor vehicle accidents. As many die from accidents in the home as on the roads, mostly in the very young and the aged, nearly all of which could have been prevented.

The causes of arterial disease still elude us. The disease is mainly one of degeneration, but this process may arise earlier in some than others. There may be a strong hereditary factor, but the decline of the taking of physical exercise, due to the introduction of the internal combustion engine, the over-civilisation of our diet, the increasing stress and frustration of modern life, may all be factors in the early incidence of the disease in some. Man no longer labours to grow his own food; for many it comes too easily and in too great a quantity. It has been said that modern man may be "digging his own grave with his teeth."

The genesis of the neoplastic conditions remain also unsolved. Cancer education and the recognition of early symptoms with their prompt diagnosis and treatment may, however, save many lives.

The respiratory infections still take their toll, though less than formerly. The great majority of deaths from pneumonia are in those whose health is undermined by other causes and is as such only a terminal event.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES

Laboratory Service.—The Public Health Laboratory Service operating at the General Hospital, Northampton, was available for the diagnosis and analysis of specimens relative to infectious disease, and was free of cost to the local authority. An helpful and efficient service is provided, and we thank Dr. Hoyle for his constant co-operation.

Ambulance Services.—The Ambulance maintained by the St. John Ambulance Brigade was used for all cases occurring in the District.

Nursing in the Home.—This service was provided directly by the County Council, who have their nurses living in various parishes of the District. The Home Help Service, also provided by the County Council, was in operation in several parishes in the District.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.—Infant Welfare Clinics were held at Long Buckby, Weedon, West Haddon, and Woodford Halse. Ante-Natal Clinics were held in Daventry, and mothers from the surrounding district were welcomed. Transport facilities were provided by the County Council in various parts of the District for mothers and children to attend clinics at a nearby centre.

Hospitals.—Those suffering from infectious disease were treated at Harborough Road Isolation Hospital, Northampton. Again during the year there were very few admittances to the hospital from this District. Sufferers from tuberculosis who required institutional treatment were sent to either Creaton or Rushden House Sanatoria.

All other general and surgical cases were treated at Northampton General Hospital, Danetre Hospital, or the Hospital of St. Cross, Rugby. The treatment of patients at Danetre Hospital was of much benefit to the District, since relatives and friends were able to visit more frequently and with less travelling difficulties.

WELFARE OF THE AGED

National Assistance Act, 1948, and National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.—It was necessary to take action under Section 47 in the case of one male person who was aged and infirm.

The following provide services for old people:—

1. The National Health Service

- (a) General Practitioner Service.
- (b) Hospital and Specialist Services including the Almoner Service.

2. The County Council

(a) The Health Department

1. District Nurses.
2. Health Visitors.
3. Home Help Service.—The Home Help Service is of inestimable value in the prevention of breakdown in the aged, and many are able to remain in their own homes who would otherwise have to be removed to institutions. Several old people were kept under observation during the year.
4. Chiropody Service.
5. Certain home equipment where necessary.

(b) The Welfare Department.

1. Part III accommodation and homes.
2. Special services for Blind, etc., and home fittings where necessary.

3. The National Assistance Board.

Financial help where necessary.

4. The District Council.

Homes for the Aged, Flats and in some cases Flatlets with Warden supervision.

5. Voluntary Organisations.

These are many and services vary in different areas. They include holiday schemes in which old people are taken on seaside holidays in off-season times; the Darby and Joan Clubs; "Meals on Wheels" Service; and Home Visiting. The Women's Voluntary Service very often undertake many of the above duties, while in other areas local voluntary committees run the various organisations. The Rural Communities Council together with the Old People's Welfare Committee provide co-operation between the various services.

Your Medical Officer of Health, having a special interest in the welfare of the aged, and by virtue of her appointment both to the District and the County Council, and by her relationship with other Medical colleagues, endeavours to fulfil the function of co-operation and co-ordination between these many agencies. Many cases of breakdown can be prevented by early application of these services.

Voluntary organisations have also requested that your Medical Officer should give lectures and talks and each invitation received is accepted and fulfilled.

Darby and Joan Clubs.—These Clubs are supervised and managed by local Welfare Committees, voluntary bodies of local people. The Clubs usually meet fortnightly and the membership varies with the size of the village, those at Long Buckby, Weedon, and Woodford Halse each having over 80 members. Programmes of entertainment are arranged for the meeting, and tea is provided. Some clubs run a chiropody service. Grateful thanks are expressed to all those voluntary workers who give their time so freely for the welfare of the old people.

Clubs are held at: Woodford Halse—membership over 80; chairman, Mr. Councillor J. W. Anscomb. J.P.. C.C. Long Buckby—membership 100; Chairman, Mrs. Kingston. Weedon—membership 96; Chairman, Mrs. Beard. West Haddon—membership 40; chairman, Mrs. Crawley.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Water Supplies.—All the Parishes of the District, with the exception of the small hamlet of Fawsley, have water mains, provided by the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board. The very isolated farms and cottages remain without a mains supply, it not being economic to provide. There is much gratification that this Council is embodied in the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board. There was generally an adequate supply of water, and of good quality, it being constantly treated by chlorination, and is regularly analysed by the Board. The imperative necessity of proper sewage works in the villages with a now abundant water supply cannot be too strongly emphasised.

Enquiries made as to the condition of supplies	124
Number of samples analysed	24
Numbers of samples satisfactory after analysis	22
Number of samples unsatisfactory after analysis	2
Informal notices sent regarding water supplies	4

The unsatisfactory samples were taken from wells, and in both cases a mains supply has now been made available.

The following information was supplied by the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board:—

Bacteriological samples taken throughout the area	130
Bacteriological samples taken at sources:—	
Pitsford Raw Water	55
Pitsford Sedimented Water	57
Pitsford Filtered	252
Ravensthorpe Raw Water	47
Ravensthorpe Primary Filtered	47
Ravensthorpe Filtered	251

These analyses were all satisfactory.

During the same period a number of chemical analyses were also made.

**STATISTICS SHOWING HOUSES WITH PIPED OR
NON-PIPED WATER SUPPLIES**

Parish	PIPED SUPPLY			NON-PIPED SUPPLY	
	Laid-on Supply	No. of Houses with Stand Supply	Tap	No. of Houses with Parish Well	Private Well
Ashby St. Ledgers	42	3	—	—	5
Badby	129	26	—	—	11
Barby	117	3	—	—	10
Braunston	347	15	—	—	14
Brockhall	5	—	—	—	3
Byfield	290	2	—	—	12
Canons Ashby	6	—	—	—	4
Catesby	22	—	—	—	6
Charwelton	45	—	—	—	6
Clay Coton	14	—	—	—	3
Crick	237	7	—	—	10
Dodford	32	11	—	—	9
Elkington	8	—	—	—	10
Everdon	125	—	—	—	7
Farthingstone	41	10	—	—	7
Fawsley	9	—	—	—	4
Flore	319	10	—	—	8
Hellidon	52	—	—	—	3
Kilsby	194	—	—	—	10
Lilbourne	70	—	—	—	4
Long Buckby	802	13	—	—	13
Newnham	119	—	—	—	12
Norton	57	26	—	—	10
Preston Capes	52	—	—	—	6
Stanford	10	—	—	—	2
Staverton	108	—	—	—	6
Stowe-IX-Churches	38	18	—	—	10
Watford	64	12	—	—	8
Weedon Bec	473	9	—	—	10
Welton	113	10	—	—	5
West Haddon	237	20	—	—	8
Whilton	42	15	—	—	10
Winwick	32	1	—	—	1
Woodford Halse	607	2	—	—	12
Yelvertoft	125	20	—	—	8
	—	—	—	—	—
	4983	233	—	—	267

SEWAGE DISPOSAL, SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

It is pleasing to report that progress was maintained on the new sewage disposal schemes for the parishes of Lilbourne and Yelvertoft. It was anticipated that the work would be completed just after mid-1961. A start was made on the new Watford sewage scheme, and progress was quite satisfactory at the end of the year. The Public Health Committee also considered new schemes for Everdon and Welton, and it was evident that the Committee was determined to launch further schemes at the earliest possible time, although expenditure had of necessity to be curtailed. With the greater part of the District now enjoying a mains water supply, the provision of new sewage schemes is of major importance to the general health of the District.

The general drainage position in all the seweried parishes was satisfactory, although in one or two parishes the existing sewage disposal plants required modernisation of an urgent nature, since the building of new houses has meant an increased flow of sewage, and some of the existing works are not capable of dealing efficiently with this increased flow. In other parishes the drainage position is not so satisfactory, although a number of properties have their own septic tanks for the treatment of sewage.

Parishes of the District with sewage disposal works were as follows:—

Ashby St. Ledgers	Newnham
Badby	Staverton
Barby	Watford (being renewed)
Braunston	Weedon Bec
Byfield	West Haddon
Crick	Winwick
Flore	Woodford Halse
Kilsby	Yelvertoft (part seweried, complete scheme in course of provision)
Long Buckby	

There were also temporary schemes at Charwelton and Lilbourne (where a new scheme was well in hand), and a temporary scheme for part of the village of Welton.

Disinfection.—Disinfection was carried out at homes from which infectious diseases of a certain nature were notified.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—No cases were brought to notice.

Moveable Dwellings, Public Health 1936, section 269.—This section of the Public Health Act was further implemented by the coming into force of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. This Act laid down certain standards as to caravan sites. With the exception of one site, that at Long Buckby, all sites licensed were in respect of a single caravan; that at Long Buckby was for 10 caravans. Sixteen sites were licensed.

Schools.—The School premises in the District were generally satisfactory. There is one private school in the District.

Pests Act, 1949.—The Council's scheme of operating this Act, by a part-time operative (working in conjunction with refuse collection) was continued during the year with good results. The table given shows the work done. Very few infestations were found during visits; those that were found were usually of a minor character. It will be noticed there was an increase in the number of treatments to private and council house property. The causes were generally found to be the keeping of poultry, etc. The mileage covered by the van also increased as a result of the increase of treatments to private properties.

Inspections of private dwellings	445
Inspections of Council houses	699
Inspections of farm premises	73
Treatments to private dwellings	206
Treatments to Council houses	59
Total visits during treatments	996
Number of sewer manholes baited	852
Number of follow-up treatments	700
Number of follow-up treatment checks of manholes	3198
Number of treatments to sewerage works	42
Number of follow-up treatments	167
Number of treatments to refuse tips	61
Number of follow-up treatments	261
Total mileage covered by the van	3652 miles

Poisons used:—81 lbs. warfarin: 356 lbs. sewer warfarin.
Baits used:—734 lbs. pinhead oatmeal.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1937 to 1959

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1960 for the Rural District of Daventry in the County of Northants.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937

PART 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sects. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	66	60	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	—	—	—	—
Total...	66	60	3	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found (if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases).

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S1)	2	3	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	—	—	—	—	—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	3	—	1	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

No lists of Outworkers were received during the year.

Refuse and Salvage Collection.—The regular weekly collection of household refuse and salvage was maintained throughout the District, and once again there was little complaint concerning this work. The amount of refuse collected showed a further increase, but as in the past two or three years the refuse collected contained very little ash, it was chiefly vegetable, cardboard, dirty paper and tins. This type of refuse was most difficult to deposit. Much soiling over has been carried out. There has been a great deal of trouble and expense caused by tips getting on fire, especially at Woodford refuse tip, where it was obvious the fires had been started, though it was not possible to get any culprits. It was necessary to get the assistance of the Fire Brigade on two occasions, while the refuse staff have dug out fires on several other occasions. The collection of salvage continued along with refuse collection, and a total of £531 17s. 4d. was received from the sale of this salvage. This showed an increase compared with the previous year.

Petroleum (Regulations) Acts, 1928 and 1936:

Number of licences granted	4
Number of licences renewed	74
Number of Carbide of Calcium licences renewed	1
Number of licences for Cellulose Solutions renewed	1

Public Health Act, 1936 (Part X) Canal Boats.—During the year four canal boats were extensively overhauled and refitted in the local canal boat builder's yards at Braunston and were registered with the Council.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

During the year 44 new Council dwellings were completed and occupied, as compared with 20 the previous year.

There was a large increase in the numbers of existing Council houses becoming vacant and being re-let; the figure was 86 compared with 48 the previous year, so that during the year 130 Council dwellings were allocated, in some part for slum clearance work and the remainder to the waiting list.

The waiting list at the end of the year showed 374 applicants desirous of Council house or bungalow accommodation. There were 132 fresh applicants registered during the year.

Steady progress was maintained in connection with Slum Clearance, and a number of houses were dealt with, either as Individual Demolition Orders, Closing Orders, or Undertakings, but no Clearance Areas were made. A progress report on Slum Clearance is given on a later page of this report.

Forty-four new Council houses or bungalows were completed and occupied as follows:—Badby, 2 houses; Braunston, 4 bungalows; Byfield 8 houses and 4 bungalows; Kilsby, 8 houses; Weedon, 6 houses and 4 bungalows; Yelvertoft 8 houses; while a further 35 privately owned houses were completed and occupied.

The following Council dwellings were in course of erection at the end of the year:—Braunston, 4 bungalows; Long Buckby, 2 bungalows; Weedon, 4 houses, 10 bungalows.

Council houses re-let by parish representatives	86
Council house tenants given permission to take a lodger	12
Council house tenants refused permission to take a lodger	2
Internal exchange of Council houses permitted	1
External exchange of Council houses permitted	2
Council house tenancies transferred	6

HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959

The year showed a decrease in the numbers of applications for "Discretionary" Grant, but an increase in the numbers of applications for "Standard" Grant.

The summaries given below show the amount of work which has been necessary for the approval of applications:—

Discretionary Grant

Number of applications received	17
Number of applications rejected, due to failure to comply with the regulations	2
	—
Number of applications approved	15
	—
Total cost of Improvement Grants approved (of this total the Council contribute 25% and the Ministry the remainder)	£3,419
Total estimated cost of Improvement Works approved	£9,444

Since the Act came into operation 235 applications for grants have been received. Of these 18 were withdrawn by the applicants; 49 were rejected after inspection due to failure to comply with the requirements of the Act; 168 have been approved, costing some £36,016 in Improvement Grant. By the end of the year works in respect of 143 applications had been completed and grant paid.

Standard Grants

Number of applications received	47
Number of applications not approved	1
Number of applications withdrawn by applicant	2
	—
Number approved	44

The number of grants approved showed a total amount of grant to be paid as £5,750. By the end of the year 73 standard grant applications had been approved since the Act came into operation, for grants totalling £8,905, and further, by the end of the year works in respect of 34 applications had been completed and grant paid.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936 — 57

1.—Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—	
(i) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts
	1362
(b)	Inspections made for the purpose
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses (included in sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts
	1406
(iii)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation
	88
(iv)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation
	54
	34
2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:—	
	Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Public Health Inspector
	42
3.—Action by Local Authority under the Housing and Public Health Acts by serving informal notices:—	
(a) Under the Housing Acts:—	
	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring repairs
	38
	Number of houses in which repairs were carried out by owners
	38
	By Council in default of owners
	nil
(b) Under the Public Health Act:—	
	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied
	42
	Number of houses where defects were remedied by owner
	42
	By Council in default of owner
	nil

(iii) Number of dwelling houses voluntarily demolished in consequence of informal action	2
(iv) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Undertakings were given by the owners	21
(v) Number of Undertakings cancelled, the houses having been made fit	13
(vi) Number of dwelling houses upgraded to either category '2' or '1' by reason of repairs and improvements being carried out	37
(vii) Number of separate dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	18
(viii) Number of separate dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined	1
(ix) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made and were subsequently demolished by owners	7

Overcrowding.—As the result of the Council's own re-housing, it was known that 10 cases of overcrowding, involving some 53 persons, were abated

B.—Proceedings under sections 16 and 17 Housing Act, 1957:—

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	15
(ii) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order, by owners	7

Housing Acts, 1936—57.

No Clearance Areas were made by the Council during the year. Slum Clearance work was entirely carried out under sections 16 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1957, and is shown on the previous page of this report.

The following table shows the progress of Slum Clearance in the District since 1955 to 31st December, 1960:—

(a) Number of houses dealt with in Clearance Areas	84
(b) Number of houses in Clearance Areas now demolished	79
(c) Number of houses dealt with as Individual Demolition Orders	53
(d) Number of houses dealt with as Individuals and made fit	3
(e) Number of houses dealt with as Individuals and Demolished	35
(f) Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	110
(g) Number of houses dealt with as Closing Orders, but made fit	19
(h) Number of houses dealt with as Closing Orders and demolished	19
(i) Number of houses in respect of which Undertakings were accepted	108
(j) Number of houses in respect of which Undertakings were cancelled, the houses being made fit	29
(k) Number of houses in respect of which Undertakings were accepted and subsequently demolished by owners	10
(l) Number of houses voluntarily demolished after informal action by the Public Health Inspector	23
(m) Number of houses up-graded in category as the result of repairs and improvements being carried out	116
(n) Number of houses dealt with in earlier Clearance Areas and demolished in 1960	7

The Council's First Five Years' Plan, submitted in August, 1955, outlined as a beginning an attempt to deal with 294 houses, but the progress made has gone well beyond this figure, and in five and a half years 494 houses had been dealt with. A number of houses so dealt with did not create any housing problem for the Council, since they were dealt with immediately they became vacant. The figures shown in the table above at (a); (c); (f); (i); (l) and (m) show how the total figure is arrived at.

A further Five Years' Plan was formulated during the year, and it was decided to deal with a further 228 houses. It will be seen that already this figure, together with the first Five Years' Plan, has almost been achieved. There still remains the problem of many elderly people in category '5' houses, and action is being taken generally in these cases as the tenancy ceases.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply.—The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, were in operation, and brought earlier regulations into line with modern methods of milk production.

The enforcement of the Regulations is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, and as regards distribution and infected milk the local authority.

All milk sold in the area is "Designated" of one type or other, the general types being " Pasteurised " and " Tuberculin Tested," and supplies generally were satisfactory throughout the District.

15 Dealer's licences to sell Pasteurised Milk were renewed.

9 Dealer's licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk were renewed, while 4 large dairy firms supplying a large area of the District had their licences to sell Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested milks renewed. In these cases the principal licences are obtained from other authorities.

Bakehouses.—There still remained the 5 bakehouses in the District. All were frequently inspected and in 2 cases it was necessary to serve informal cleansing notices.

Shops.—The Shops in the District were generally satisfactory. A number of shops have been modernised, with very satisfactory results. All were inspected at least once during the year, some more than others, and particular attention has been paid to cafes, etc.

Below is a table showing the various types of shops in the District:—

Bakehouses and Shops	...	...	...	...	5
Boots and Shoes only	...	...	...	...	3
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	20
Cafes	...	...	...	...	10
Canteens	...	...	...	...	4
Chemists	...	...	...	...	3
Clubs	...	...	...	...	6
Confectionery only	...	...	...	...	2
Cycles only	...	...	...	...	3
Drapery Only	...	...	...	...	10
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	6
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	1
General Stores	...	...	...	...	74
Hairdressers only	...	...	...	...	5
Hardware only	...	...	...	...	4
Paints only	...	...	...	...	1
Post Offices only	...	...	...	...	10
Post Offices and General Stores	...	...	...	...	14
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	60
Public Houses. also eating places	...	...	...	...	5
Stationery only	...	...	...	...	3

As a result of shop inspections 8 informal cleansing notices were served

The amount of food condemned (excepting meat) again showed a decrease.

Meat.—Eight slaughterhouses were in constant use throughout the year, although in two cases only pigs and sheep were slaughtered. This has entailed a considerable amount of time spent on the examination of meat, before sale to the public. A number of butchers continued to buy carcase meat off wholesalers. During the year the new Regulations for Slaughterhouses and a report on existing facilities was submitted to the Ministry, insofar as the Regulations affected existing slaughterhouses in the District. Three owners had signified their intention of bringing their premises up to the required standard, and in one case the work had been completed before the end of the year. One butcher had submitted plans for the erection of a new slaughterhouse and premises. So far as possible all meat slaughtered in the District had been examined, and at Crick particularly this has meant daily visits. No unsound meat was found exposed for sale; 22 licences to persons to act as slaughtermen were renewed.

The table below shows the carcases inspected and the incidence of any disease evident at those inspections:—

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Exclud Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	1171	25	2	—	760
Number inspected	1171	25	2	6035	760
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	147	8	—	165	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	12.5	32.0	—	2.7	—
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	—	—	—	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .. ..	.7	—	—	—	1.05
Cysticercosis:					
Carcases of which some part was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

There was no slaughtering of horses for food for human consumption.

A pleasing feature of the figures shown in the above table is the very low incidence of tuberculosis. This disease has shown a steady decline over the past few years.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Eighty-two cases of infectious disease were notified, showing a considerable decrease on last year's figure of 258 cases. This was due to the decrease in measles notifications, which continues in its biennial incidence.

This year has been a very satisfactory year. No cases of dysentery, no cases of poliomyelitis, and one case only of food poisoning. A small outbreak of scarlet fever in Long Buckby with, however, no complications.

Measles.—This disease, though highly infectious, is now, like scarlet fever, of a benign character, seldom showing serious complication. However, in the more delicate and occasionally in normal children the unpleasant complication of eye or ear infection or pneumonia still occur. These complications are, however, usually soon and successfully dealt with by the large number of effective antibiotics that are now available.

Whooping Cough.—A slight increase in notifications. The County Council and many general practitioners have now adopted the method of early immunisation to this illness, starting at 2—3 months, and it is to be hoped that there will be fewer cases of this disease which, when it attacks in early infancy is so distressing and often dangerous.

Scarlet Fever.—Many of these cases were associated with a further outbreak in the Infants' School at Long Buckby, and was probably a follow-up from the outbreak occurring the previous year. The illness was without exception very mild and no serious complications resulted.

Poliomyelitis.—No cases occurred. This is gratifying, and now, with very large numbers immunised it is hoped that there will be a steady decline in incidence and severity of this infection. It has been found that with the immunisation of a high percentage of the population there is a decline of circulating virus in the community, and though themselves not immunised this helps to protect the other members of the community from infection.

Dysentery.—No cases occurred.

Influenza.—One death was recorded. The number of cases during the year is not known, but the incidence of infection was lower than last year.

Pneumonia.—Eight deaths were recorded. Though deaths from pneumonia, once a great killer, especially in the elderly, have largely declined, an attack of pneumonia in the vulnerable may still indeed prove fatal. The respiratory infections still constitute a very serious public health problem. They are the cause of much ill-health, and remain the greatest factor in loss of working hours. Infection may range from the common cold to pneumonia, and further knowledge of the etiological factors in this group of illnesses is a pressing need, so that they may finally be controlled. The incidence of chronic nasal catarrh often with the later development of sinusitis is still an all too common occurrence. Many schoolchildren still suffer from nasal catarrh. The cause is obscure, and the need for research into this problem is stressed.

Food poisoning.—One case was notified and occurred after the patient had eaten crabs. Recovery was speedy and the organism was never isolated.

Period Distribution of Notified Cases of Infectious Disease

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Measles	1	—	7	33	4	5	—	3	—	—	—	—	53
Whooping Cough	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	8
Scarlet Fever	7	—	5	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	17
Pneumonia	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	8	1	13	36	4	5	i	9	1	2	2	—	82

Parish Distribution of Infectious Diseases

PARISH	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Food Poisoning	TOTAL	
						Measles	Whooping Cough
Braunston	4	1	4	1	—	10	—
Byfield	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Catesby	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dodford	3	—	—	—	—	3	—
Everdon	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Flore	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
Hellidon	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
Long Buekby	6	5	8	1	1	21	—
Newnham	1	—	3	—	—	4	—
Norton	8	—	1	—	—	9	—
Staverton	10	—	—	1	—	10	—
Stowe-IX-Churches	3	—	1	—	—	4	—
Weedon	7	—	—	—	—	8	—
Welton	2	1	—	—	—	3	—
Whilton	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
Totals	53	8	17	3	1	53	—

Tuberculosis.—The number of new cases notified decreased by 4 compared with the previous year, there being 4 cases. All were respiratory (2 males and 2 females). There was 1 death recorded from tuberculosis.

The following tables show the position regarding Tuberculosis in the District:—

Age and Sex Distribution of New Cases and Deaths, 1960										
Age Group Years	NEW CASES				DEATHS					
	Respiratory		Other		Respiratory		Other			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female		
15—24	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
25—35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—		
over 55	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—		

Cases on the Register and other relevant details regarding Tuberculosis cases for 1960

	MALE		FEMALE		TOTAL
	Respiratory	Other	Respiratory	Other	
Cases at Dec. 1959 ..	30	5	34	13	82
Notified 1960 ..	2	—	2	—	4
Less: Cured ..	1	—	3	—	4
Less: Left District ..	2	—	1	—	3
Cases remaining at December 1960 ..	29	5	32	13	79

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

There was a gratifying increase in the number of children immunised to diphtheria and a large increase in the numbers receiving booster immunisations. Small outbreaks of diphtheria have occurred in some parts of the country during the year and in nearly all the cases either there has been no immunisation or a failure to accept the booster dose. The necessity for both primary and booster immunisation is continually stressed by your Medical Officer, and it is only by maintaining a high percentage of immunisation that a community remains free from diphtheria.

The triple vaccine, which included both diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus (lockjaw) was introduced in all County Council clinics during the year. This vaccination is carried out early in infancy, thereby helping to prevent some of the most distressing cases of whooping cough that usually occurs in young infants. Early vaccination, however, should be followed by reinforcing doses as duration of immunity to the first dose is limited.

There has been a further decline in smallpox vaccination, and a fall in acceptance of children under 1 year from 140 to 88. This is a serious matter and such a decline is the cause of much disquiet. With modern air transport, smallpox can easily be introduced into a community, and with many susceptibles present may result in an outbreak. Parents are earnestly requested to have their infants vaccinated.

SMALL-POX VACCINATION

	under					15 or over	total
	1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or over	total	
Primary	34	54	21	4	8	121	
Re-Vaccination	—	—	4	2	28	34	

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

Under	1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total	15 or over	3rd Injs. all ages
	1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	315	947	1313
30	30	129	42	9	11	37	57			

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

	under								Booster
	1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total	Booster
Diphtheria									
Immunisation only	5	2	2	—	1	3	1	14	151
Combined Diphtheria—									
Whooping Cough	42	5	16	1	1	3	—	68	36
Triple	122	13	9	1	3	5	1	154	26
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	169	20	27	2	5	11	2	236	213
Whooping Cough only	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—

Number of Children who have completed a full Course of Diphtheria Immunisation

	Under	1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total	
Age at 31.12.60										under
i.e. born in year	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1951	1946		15
Number Immunised	79	160	209	184	204	901	909			2646

The County Council are to be congratulated on the completion of the very large numbers of poliomyelitis vaccinations. Thanks are also due to the County Medical Officer of Health for his assistance in making the above figures available for report.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS

Year	Estimated Population	Births		Deaths			
		No.	Crude Rate	Under 1 Year		All Ages	
				No.	Rate	No.	Rate
1948	15,850	281	17.6	6	21.0	167	10.60
1949	15,900	250	15.7	14	56.0	217	16.10
1950	15,840	255	16.0	5	19.6	190	11.90
1951	16,290	274	16.9	4	14.6	201	12.30
1952	16,440	236	14.3	7	29.6	182	11.07
1953	16,480	252	15.29	7	27.7	162	9.83
1954	16,590	257	15.27	2	7.7	202	12.1
1955	16,550	222	13.3	5	22.5	192	11.6
1956	16,490	265	16.09	5	22.5	185	11.21
1957	16,450	269	16.35	5	18.58	197	11.97
1958	16,370	267	16.3	9	33.7	196	11.36
1959	16,480	248	15.05	3	11.8	185	11.2
1960	16,190	251	15.5	5	19.9	188	11.6

